

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 18-22 are currently pending. Claim 22 is new and does not constitute new matter. Support for new claim 22 can be found in the specification at, for example, Examples 1-6. Claim 15 is canceled in response to the restriction requirement issued by the Examiner on September 6, 2005.

Claims 1-16 and 18-21 have been subject to restriction. The Examiner asserts that the claims are drawn to 2 patentably distinct inventions as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-15 and 18-21, drawn to a method of coating;

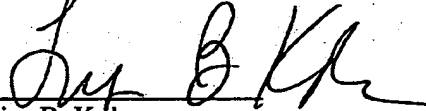
Group II: Claim 16, drawn to a coated product obtained by the method of any one of claims 1-15.

Applicants elect the claimed method of Group I, claims 1-15, and 18-21, and new claim 22, drawn to a method of coating. Applicants submit that the election is made without prejudice to the prosecution of the subject matter of the non-elected claim in divisional, continuation, and continuation-in-part applications.

Further, the Examiner asserts that the invention identified as Group I contains claims directed to six patentably distinct species. Applicants hereby traverse this species election requirement for the reasons set forth below. However, to be fully responsive, Applicants provisionally elect the species corresponding to Example 1, where Element A is Na, Element B is In and Liquid L is diethylene glycol. All pending claims read on this species. Applicants submit that the species delineated by the Examiner are not distinct, and merit examination together in light of the relative placement in the periodic table and known chemical properties of the chemical compounds identified in the application as Elements A and B.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the species election requirement be withdrawn and all pending claims be examined together. Entry of the foregoing remarks into the file of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. An early allowance is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,



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